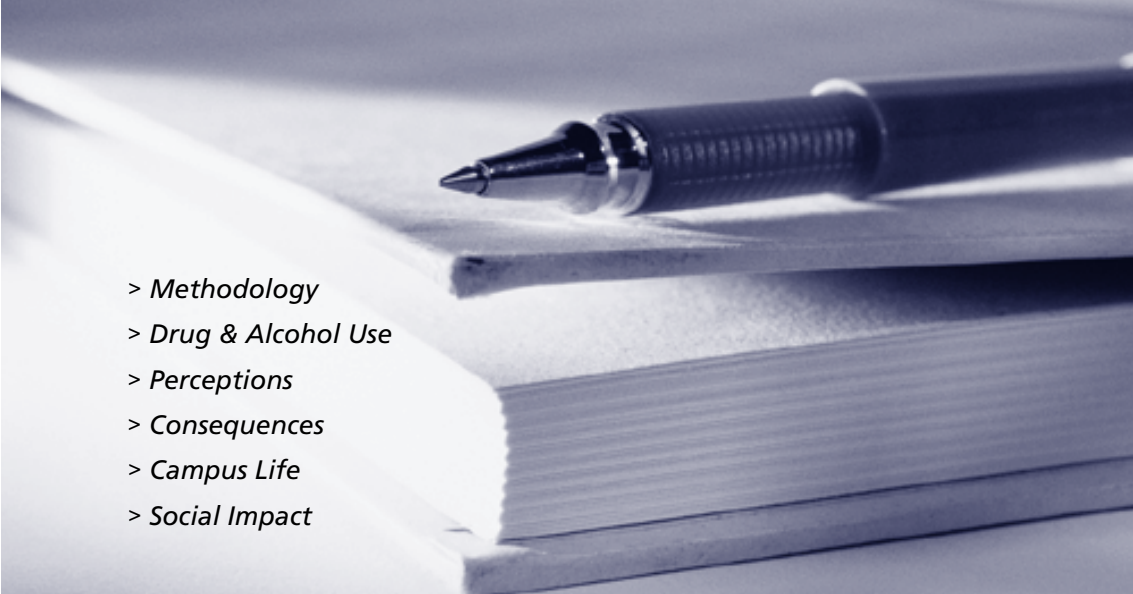


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- > *Methodology*
 - > *Drug & Alcohol Use*
 - > *Perceptions*
 - > *Consequences*
 - > *Campus Life*
 - > *Social Impact*

Drugs, Alcohol & Virginia College Students Report of Findings 2000



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report was written by Dr. David Anderson, Associate Professor at George Mason University, the Center for the Advancement of Public Health. The data collection was funded by a grant from the Virginia Governor's Office on Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities.

**Drugs, Alcohol &
Virginia College Students**

**Report
of Findings
2000**



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REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

In 1999 and 2000, college students at 20 of Virginia's institutions of higher education responded to a voluntary survey on a range of issues and behaviors associated with drug and alcohol use. This survey includes levels of drug and alcohol use, consequences associated with this use, perceptions of the campus environment, negative experiences encountered with others' use, perceptions of other students' use of drugs and alcohol, and a range of other factors. This **Report of Findings** documents key aspects learned from the 7,821 respondents in 1999 and 6,311 respondents in 2000.

Students responding to the survey report the following drug or alcohol use:

- Nearly 20% of males and females did not use alcohol in the previous year
- Use of alcohol three times/week or more was 31% (males) and 18% (females)
- Average alcohol consumption was 8.3 drinks/week for males and 3.8 for females
- Use of five or more drinks in the prior two weeks was cited by 54% males and 38% females
- Non-use of marijuana during the previous year was 64% (males) and 71% (females)
- Cocaine use was reported by only 5% of males and 2% of females
- Use of opiates was reported by virtually no one (2.6% males and 0.7% females)
- Designer drug use was reported by 8.5% of males and 6.2% of females

Consequences associated with drug or alcohol use during the previous year were varied:

- Hangovers were the most common response, including about 60% of respondents
- Nausea was experienced by nearly one-half of students
- One-fourth of students reported getting into an argument or fight
- Academic results included missing a class (near 30%) and poor performance (near 20%)
- Others included driving under the influence (around 25%) and sexual encounters (11%)
- Students cited they might have a drinking or drug problem (14% males; 7% females)

Typically, students overestimate the use of drugs and alcohol by their peers. For example, while tobacco was used by 50% of students in the last year, the perception was that 95% of students had used it. For alcohol, use at least three times a week was believed to be the pattern for nearly two-thirds of students, while this was actually the case for 18% of females and 31% of males. Marijuana non-use was perceived at 10%, while it was actually 64% (males) to 71% (females). Cocaine non-use was believed to be around 50%; non-use was actually over 95%.

The campus environment is reported to be affected by other students' drinking.

Specifically cited were negative interference with physical living space, interruptions of studying, prevention from enjoying events, feeling unsafe, and affecting involvement in organized groups. Over one-half of students indicate that the social atmosphere promotes alcohol use, and less than one-fourth of students report that it promotes the use of other drugs. Nearly two-thirds of students feel valued as a person and similar rates report that faculty and staff care about them as students.

The **Report of Findings** identifies areas where attention can be devoted by campus leadership and state offices and agencies. While students' assessment of current approaches are not part of this report, their observations of the campus environment, as well as their experiences directly and indirectly with drugs and alcohol, provide a foundation for careful review and planning efforts.

OVERVIEW

Colleges and universities have been increasingly concerned with drug and alcohol abuse among their student population. Over the past two decades, institutional leadership at institutions of higher education throughout the nation have addressed concerns with drug and alcohol abuse with expanded policies and procedures, diverse programs, dedicated resources, support services, trained personnel, academic preparation, and a variety of public awareness campaigns.

While many services and programs have increased, data collection to assist with needs assessment and evaluation of campus-based efforts has been implemented on approximately two-thirds of four-year campuses nationwide. While this effort increased modestly in 2000, a large percentage of campuses do not routinely or systematically gather information to assist in programmatic monitoring or review.

Since 1986, the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has collaborated with college and university leaders to provide focused attention to alcohol abuse prevention on the Commonwealth's college and university campuses. Beginning with sponsoring an annual conference, ABC has continued these efforts through hosting a series of drive-in workshops, preparing resource materials, sponsoring a second annual conference, establishing regional consortia, offering grant funding, and collaborating actively with college and university leaders. The Virginia ABC has worked to collaborate with other state agencies and organizations, and has established the Virginia College Alcohol Leadership Council.

A primary focus with ABC's recent efforts with colleges and universities is on preparing quality and meaningful needs assessments and evaluations. Through attention to these issues in conferences, drive-in workshops, printed materials, and funding requirements, ABC actively encourages the Commonwealth's institutions of higher education to systematically engage in these processes.

In 1999 and again in 2000, with funding from the Governor's Office, ABC undertook a statewide initiative to promote campus-based data collection. It is the results of this two-year undertaking that serve as the foundation of this **Report of Findings**.

METHODOLOGY

Using the nationally-established Core Survey, ABC coordinated campus approaches to gather the information for use on their own campuses. All campuses were notified of this opportunity to obtain data about their students' experiences and perspectives regarding drugs and alcohol, with the opportunity to receive a data summary and their data file for subsequent analysis and review. Simultaneously, overall data from the participating Virginia colleges would be compiled for review by agency officials and other interested leaders throughout the Commonwealth. The compiled data is summarized in this report.

Data collection on the participating campuses was done in accordance with recommended procedures suggested by The Core Institute, based at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. This included classroom survey administration, mail survey, targeted groups and intercept settings.



All data collected was anonymous and voluntary. Students used the Drug and Alcohol Survey (Long Form), a computer-based optical scan form. Data was scored and compiled by The Core Institute. Each participating campus has received a report of highlights as well as a disk with all data for its own detailed examination.

While Virginia has a total of 70 two- and four-year colleges and universities, a total of 20 institutions participated in collecting data. Of these 20 institutions, 15 collected data during 1999 and 2000, and six institutions collected data on only one occasion during one year or the other. Undergraduate students serve as the primary focus of this data, with 7,821 respondents in 1999 and 6,311 respondents in 2000. Respondents included 61% females in 1999 and 68% females in 2000. Because of the notable difference in respondents based on gender as well as differing response patterns, results are typically reported separately for males and females.

In this **Report of Findings**, attention is provided to major findings gathered with the 1999 and 2000 data collection. While the primary emphasis is upon the recent (Year 2000) responses, data gathered in 1999 has been reviewed and is highlighted when notable changes have occurred over the one-year period. However, very few, if any changes, should be expected over such a short period of time. Also, since many survey questions have a range of detailed response options, these are often summarized (or collapsed) in this report; this is done when it helps to understand the findings and only when the integrity of findings can be maintained.

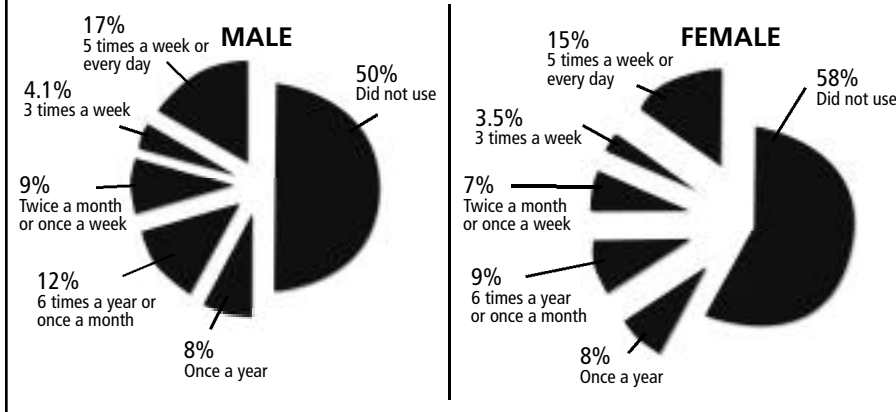
OVERALL USE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Student use of drugs and alcohol are examined in this section. The focus here is upon general patterns of use based on the frequency of use. Quantity of use, particularly with alcohol, will be highlighted in the following section of the report. Attention in this section is provided to six substances or classification of substances: alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, opiates, and designer drugs.

Questions in this section examine how often an individual used a substance, within the previous year, in each of these categories. Specifically, use patterns are based on: (1) Did not use; (2) Once a year; (3) Six times a year to once a month; (4) Twice a month to once a week; (5) Three times a week; and (6) Five times a week to every day. For the reporting of this data in the narrative and figures, percentage responses are often rounded.

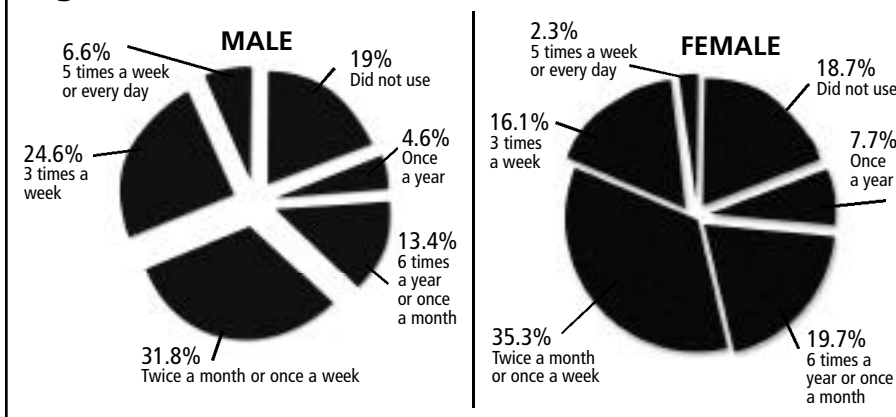
As documented in Figure 1, tobacco (smoke, chew, snuff) was used by 50% of males and 42% of females during the past year. Those students who might be classified as "regular users" (three times a week or more frequently) include 21% of males and 19% of females; both of these gender differences are statistically significant. Noteworthy is the fact that tobacco usage rates have dropped significantly since 1999; not only are fewer students using tobacco products, but also, those who use three times a week or more often have declined significantly.

Figure 1: Tobacco Use Rates within the Previous Year



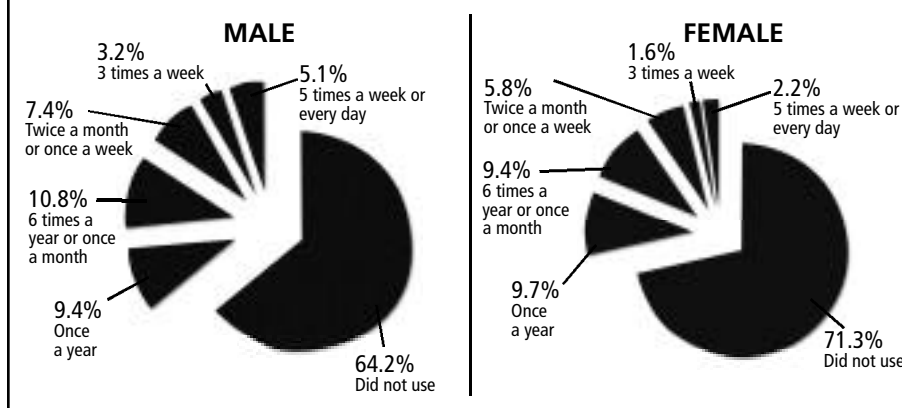
With alcohol, similar findings are noted. A total of 19% of males and females did not use alcohol (beer, wine or liquor) during the previous year. Figure 2 illustrates that 32% of males and 18% of females used alcohol three times a week or more often. Alcohol use from once a month or less often, was cited by 18% of males and 28% of females. Thus, while the percentage of males and females who have used alcohol during the previous year is the same (81%), females generally use alcohol less often than do males. Also noteworthy is the fact that more students in 2000, compared with 1999, reported not using alcohol during the previous year; this shift toward less consumption was more notable among males, with 3.0% more students not consuming alcohol, than among females (with 0.9%).

Figure 2: Alcohol Use Rates within the Previous Year



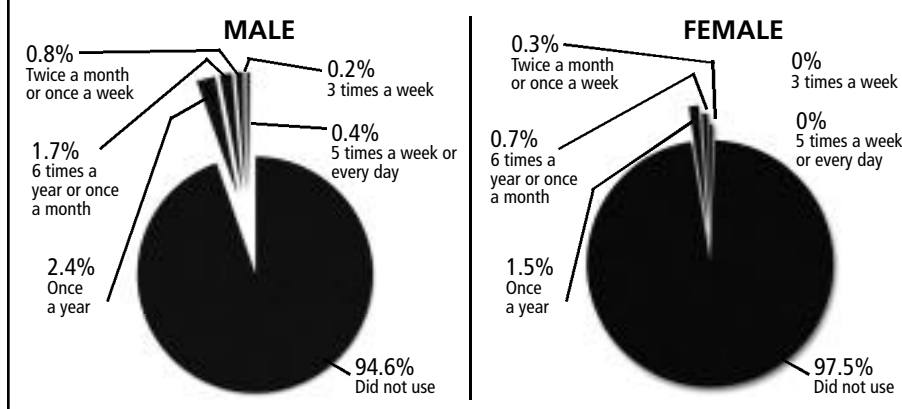
Marijuana use, cited in Figure 3, demonstrates that the vast majority of Virginia students report that they have not used marijuana during the past year. Specifically, 64% of males and 71% of females report that they did not use; this rate of non-use is up from 1999 by 1% for each group. Use on a daily or five times a week basis was found by 5% of males and 2% of females; use only once a year was reported by 9% of males and 10% of females. These patterns of use are virtually unchanged since 1999.

Figure 3: Marijuana Use Rates within the Previous Year



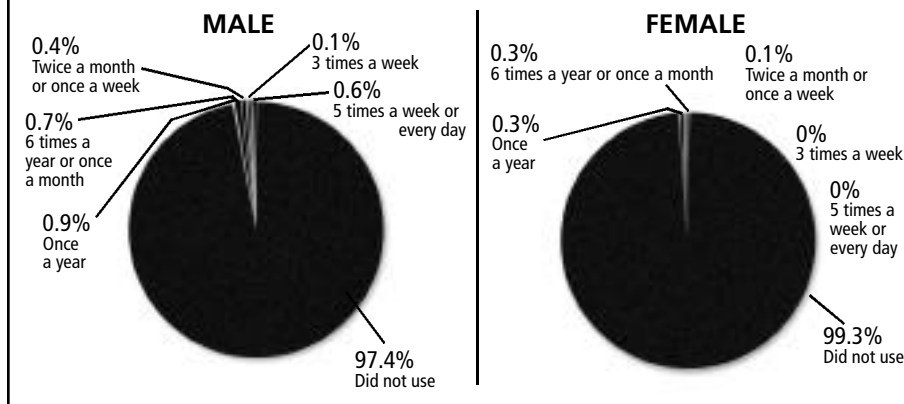
Cocaine use (including crack, rock, freebase) was used to a very limited degree among students. Figure 4 illustrates that 95% of males and 98% of females reported not using cocaine at all during the previous year. In fact, among males, use twice a month or more often was reported by 1.4% of all respondents; among females, this rate was 0.3%. No significant differences are noted when comparing the results with 1999.

Figure 4: Cocaine Use Rates within the Previous Year



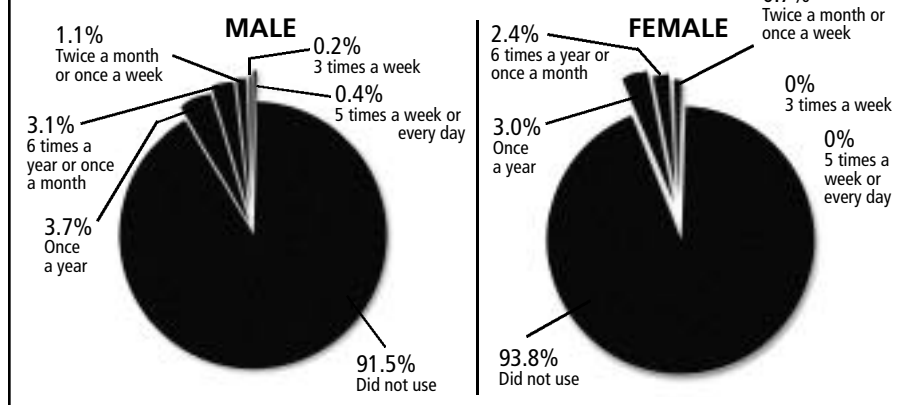
With use of opiates (e.g., heroin, smack, horse), virtually no students reported any use (see Figure 5). Among males, 2.7% reported any use during the previous year, and for 0.9% of respondents this was on one occasion; among females, 0.7% reported any use during the previous year. Again, no change is noted when compared with 1999.

Figure 5: Opiate Use Rates within the Previous Year



Finally, as cited in Figure 6, use of designer drugs (e.g., ecstasy, MDMA) was reported by 8.5% of males and 6.1% of females. These usage rates are significantly higher than those found in 1999, when 5.3% of males and 4% of females reported any use. In 2000, use of designer drugs on one occasion was reported by 3.7% of males and 3% of females, accounting for approximately 50% of the annual usage rates.

Figure 6: Designer Drug Use Rates within the Previous Year



In general, males reported more use of all drugs than females in both 1999 and 2000. While the patterns of use of tobacco and alcohol changed significantly toward lower use, the patterns for designer drugs did increase significantly.

PATTERNS OF ALCOHOL USE

Having seen that over 80% of Virginia college students used alcohol at least once during the past year, what is the range of usage patterns? Specifically, it is interesting to examine the average number of drinks per week, and the incidence of heavier alcohol use at one time.

Students were asked how many alcoholic drinks they consumed each week. From an overall perspective which includes all students responding to the survey (including those who reported that they had not consumed alcohol during the previous week), the average number of drinks per week for males is 8.3, and for females is 3.8. However, when only those who consumed alcohol during the previous week are included, the average alcohol consumption is 12.5 drinks per week for men and 6.6 drinks per week for women. Thus, the average consumption of alcohol among male drinkers is approximately twice that found among female drinkers. The percentage reporting “no drinking” during the previous week included 34% of the males and 43% of the females. These patterns for 2000 are illustrated in Figures 7 and 8 below, and represent approximately the same patterns as those found in 1999.

Figure 7: Average Weekly Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages (2000)

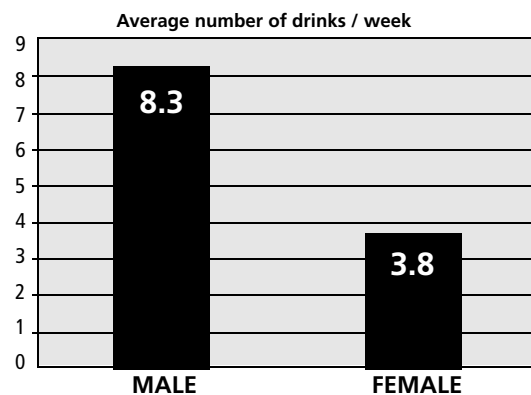
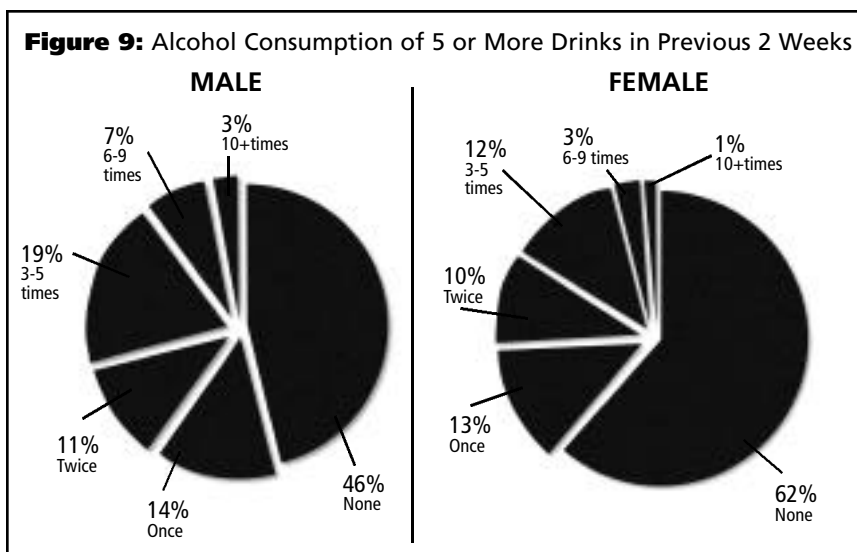


Figure 8: Alcohol Consumption in Previous Week Among Drinkers





A related question about alcohol consumption addresses the consumption of multiple alcoholic beverages during a short period of time. The question was stated: “Think back over the last two weeks. How many times have you had five or more drinks at a sitting?” The response patterns demonstrate that 54% of males and 38% of females had this occur at least once during this time period. As illustrated in Figure 9, 14% of males and 13% of females engaged in this behavior only once; however, 10% of males and 4% of females engaged in this at least six times. While most of the patterns were virtually identical between 1999 and 2000, one statistically significant change occurred among males, who showed a decrease (from 56% to 54%) in the percentage who had engaged in this behavior.

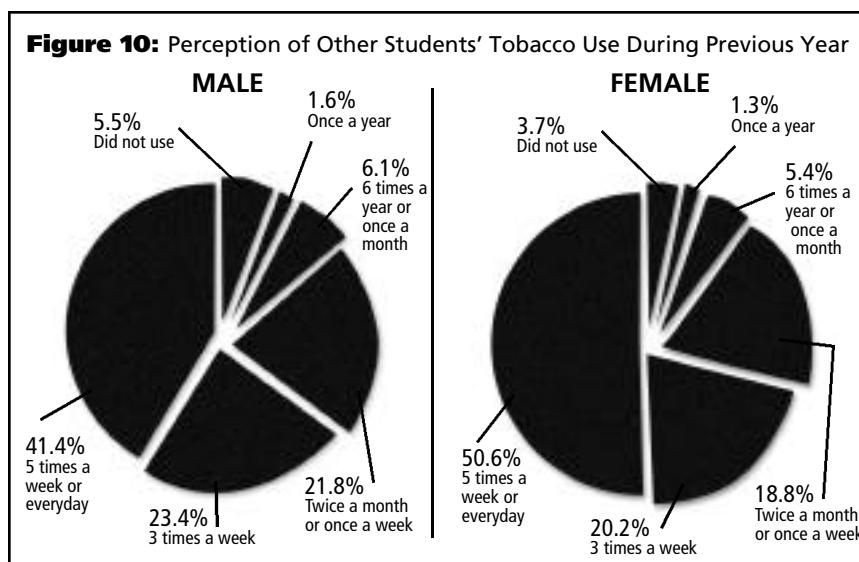


PERCEPTIONS OF OTHERS' USE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

A series of questions was asked about students' perceptions of others' use of drugs and alcohol. The same six groupings of substances summarized earlier in this report are examined in this section. The illustrations below contain highlights from these perceptions of others' use. Thus, while the same scale of use patterns was used for these questions, the illustrative data below summarizes no use at all in the previous year, as well as use at least three times a week (which includes the choices of three times a week, five times a week, and everyday); these document the endpoints for the data gathered for each of the substances. Discussed in the narrative for each of these six substances are both the perceived level of use as well as the actual level of use (which was reported earlier).

Another caution with reviewing the data below is that self-report data (again, that which was cited earlier) is generated by gender; the perception data included below, while reported by gender, is the perceived use of other students overall.

Students believed that 65-71% of their peers used tobacco at least three times a week (that is, the males reported that 64% of their peers used tobacco, and females reported that 71% of their peers used tobacco). They believed that only 3.7-5.5% of students did not use tobacco within the previous year. The reality, as cited earlier, is that regular use (three times a week or more) is found by 21% of males and 19% of females; non-use is found by 50% of males and 58% of females.



Perceptions about alcohol use patterns were similar to those about tobacco. Regular use (three times a week or more often) is perceived to be the pattern for 61-64% of students; non use is seen at 1.3-1.4%. In fact, 32% of males and 18% of females used alcohol regularly, and 19% of both males and females did not use at all during the previous year.

With marijuana, use on a three times a week or more basis was believed to occur among 20-23% of students; the reality among males was 8%, and among females was 4%. The perception was that 7-10% of students did not use marijuana during the previous year; in fact, 64% of males and 71% of females reported that they had not used marijuana during the previous twelve-month period of time. Interesting also is the observation that 34-38% of student respondents thought that the average student on their campus uses marijuana twice a month or once a week.

Turning to cocaine, similar patterns abound. Use at least three times a week is perceived to exist by 3.2-3.9% of students, with non-use being from 49-56%. The actual reported rates among Virginia students were 0.6% of males and 0% of females using cocaine on a regular basis (three times a week or more), and 95% of males and 98% of females reporting to have not used cocaine at all during the previous year. It is also

Figure 11: Perception of Other Students' Alcohol Use During Previous Year

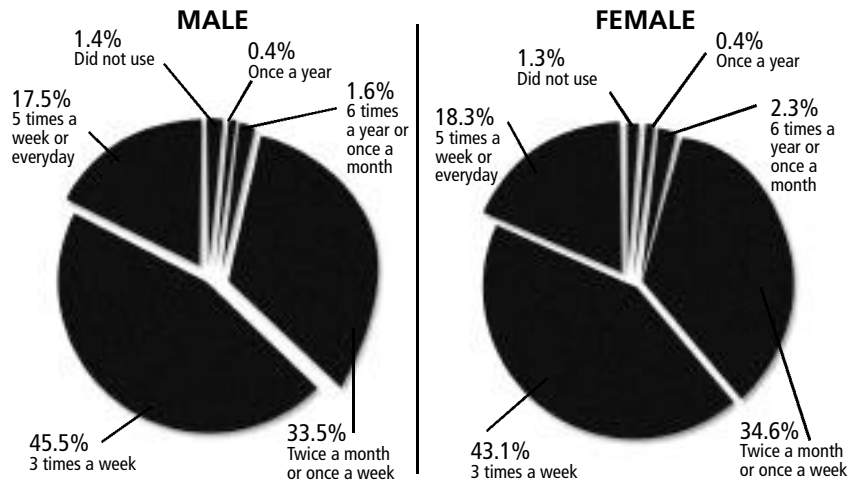
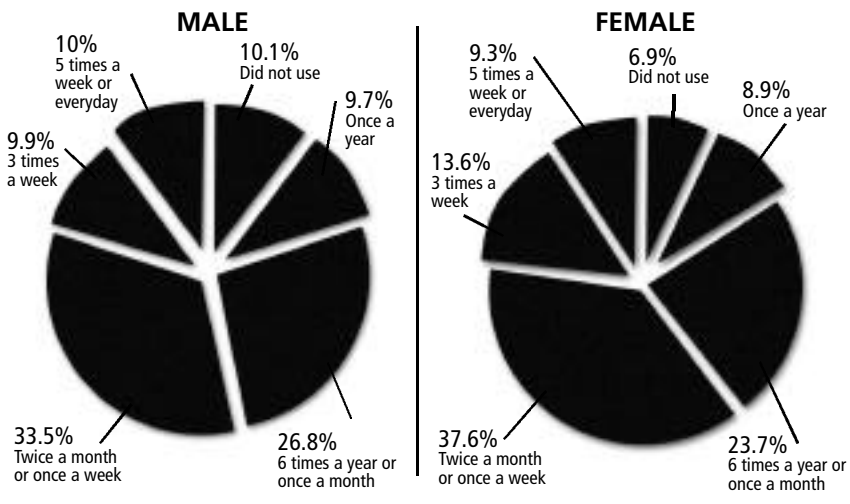
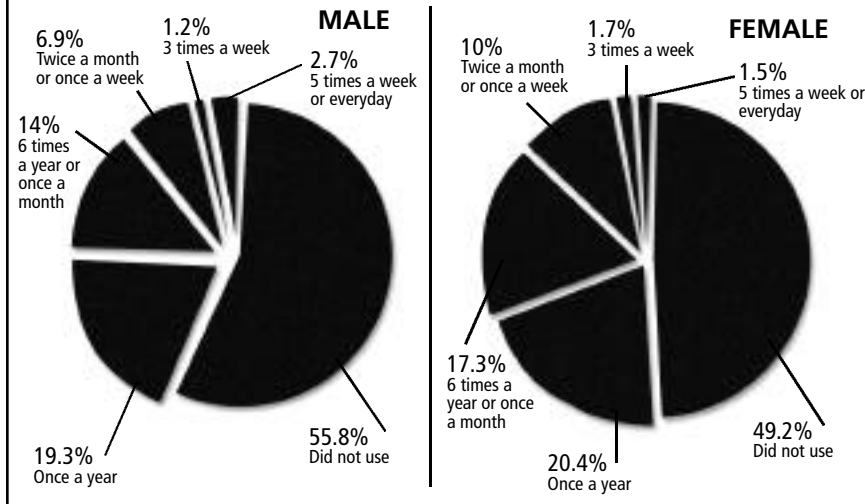


Figure 12: Perception of Other Students' Marijuana Use During Previous Year



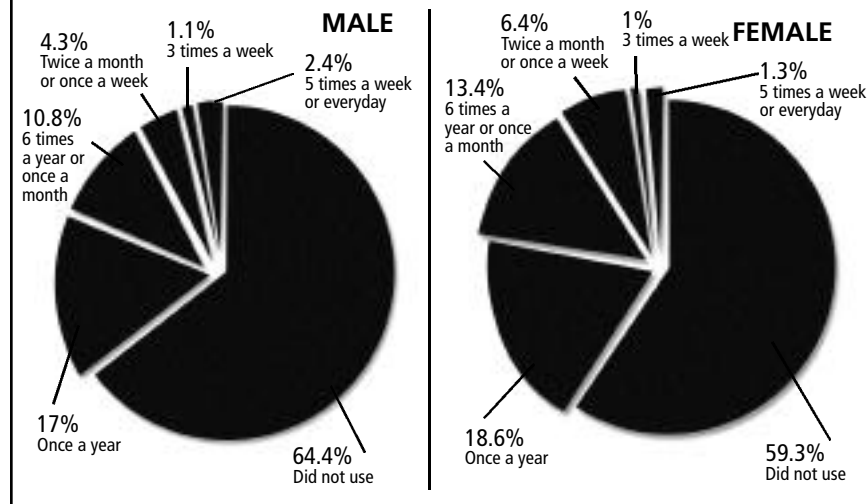
interesting to note that 7-10% of respondents indicated that the average student on the campus uses cocaine twice a month or once a week. Adding this to the previous observation, this means that 11-13% believe the average student uses at least twice a month, while the reality is that 0.3-1.4% of students actually report using in this pattern. Thus, it is estimated that 44-51% of students had used cocaine in the previous year, while 5.4% of males and 2.5% of females had actually reported use; this is an error of perception of 10 to 1.

Figure 13: Perception of Other Students' Cocaine Use During Previous Year

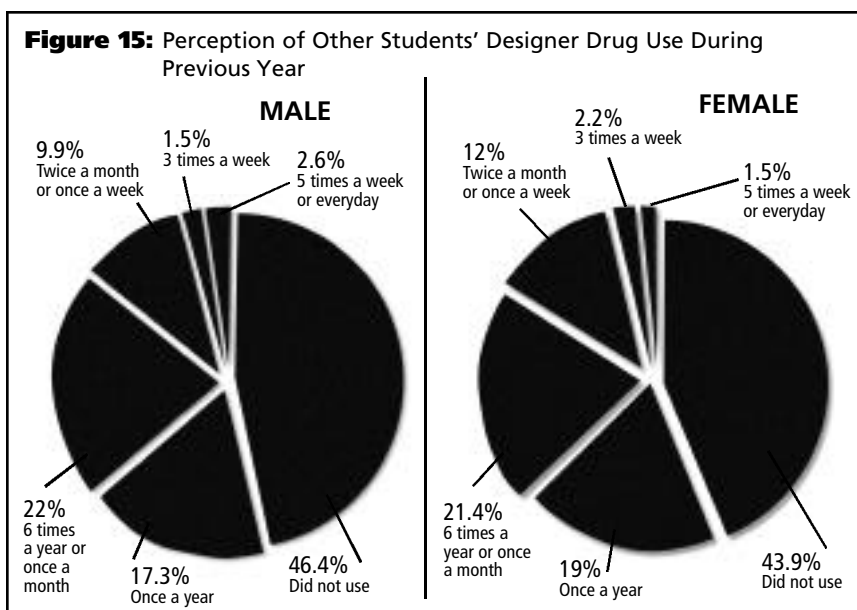


Regarding opiates, use at least three times a week is reported by 2.3-3.5% of respondents, and non-use estimated by 59-64% of respondents. In fact, the self-report data shows that 0.7% of males and 0% of females report use at least three times a week, and no annual use is reported by 97% of males and 99% of females. Generally, students estimated that 36-41% of their peers had used opiates during the previous year, while 2.6% of males and 0.7% of females had reported that they actually used.

Figure 14: Perception of Other Students' Opiate Use During Previous Year



Finally, the use of designer drugs shows that regular use (at least three times a week) is estimated among 3.7-4.1% of students on campus; non-use is estimated among 44-46% of students. The reality of the data reported is that 0.6% of males and 0% of females used designer drugs at least three times a week, on average. Further, 92% of males and 94% of females did not use designer drugs at all during the previous year. Reported differently, it was believed that 54-56% of students had used designer drugs at least once during the previous year; the reality was that 8% of males and 6% of females had used these drugs. Among student respondents, 21-22% estimated that the average student uses designer drugs six times a year or once a month, and 17-19% estimated use only once a year. In fact, the ranges for six times a year/once a month are 3.1% for males and 2.4% for females. Further, use on a single occasion during the year was 3.7% for males and 3.0% for females.



This data clearly illustrates that students inaccurately perceive the drug and alcohol use rates of their peers. Even for drugs such as tobacco, use rates are vastly different than the reality. The greatest misperception is found among opiates (exaggerated at a 20-fold level), cocaine (overestimated 10 times) and designer drugs (an 8-fold difference). As noted, differences also exist for tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana, although these misperceptions are not as extreme as those found for the more illicit substances.

CONSEQUENCES OF DRINKING AND DRUG USE

Students were asked how often they experienced each of a series of consequences as a result of their drug or alcohol use during the previous year. Among the results identified are the items identified in Figure 16 below. For ease of understanding, the frequency of consequences are reorganized into three groupings (from the survey's six): "Never," "Once or Twice," and "Three or more times" (collapsing three to five times, six to nine times, and 10 or more times). For ease of reporting, these are labeled "Never," "Seldom," and "Numerous." With these results, no significant changes are found between 1999 and 2000; also, in virtually each situation, males are more involved with the negative consequences than the females.

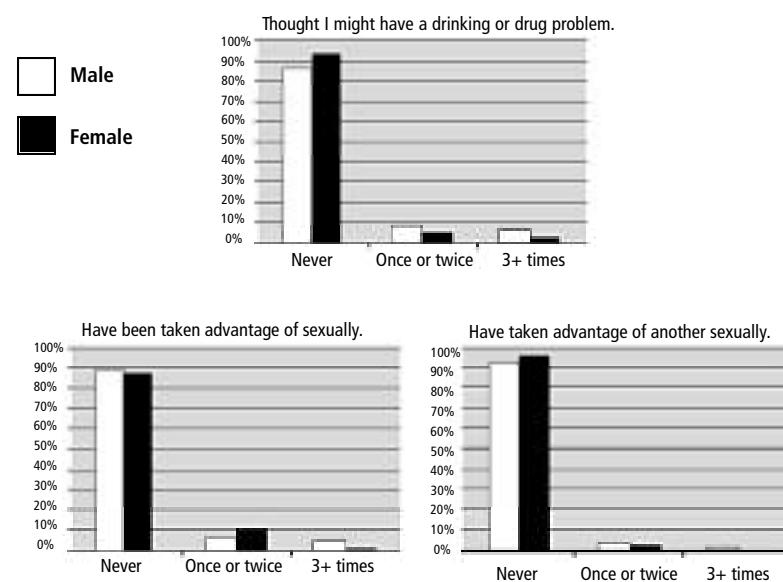
The highest level of involvement with a negative consequence as a result of drug or alcohol use was reported by having a hangover, with 57% of females and 62% of males having this experience during the previous year. Getting nauseated or vomiting was experienced by half of all students, with approximately 20% experiencing this numerous times. One-fourth of students reported getting into an argument or fight, with 11% having this happen numerous times. A total of 19% of males and 14% of females report being hurt or injured as a result of their drug or alcohol use.

Missing a class due to drinking or drug use was cited by 36% of males and 29% of females, with 20% of males and 15% of females reporting this numerous times. Performing poorly on a test or important project was less frequent, with 25% of males and 20% of females indicating this consequence.

Driving a car while under the influence was reported by 31% of males and 22% of females, with 15% of males and 9% of females reporting this numerous times over the past year; arrests for DWI/DUI were cited by 2% of males and no females. Being in trouble with police, residence hall, or other college authorities was reported by 19% of males and 11% of females; damaging property or pulling fire alarms was reported by 15% of males and 3% of females.

Interestingly, 14% of males and 7% of females reported that they thought they might have a drinking or drug problem, with 6% of males and 2% of females thinking this on numerous occasions. Overall, 11% of males and 12% of females reported being taken advantage of sexually, as a result of drinking or drug use. Similarly, 7% of males and 3% of females reported that they had taken advantage of another person sexually during the previous year.

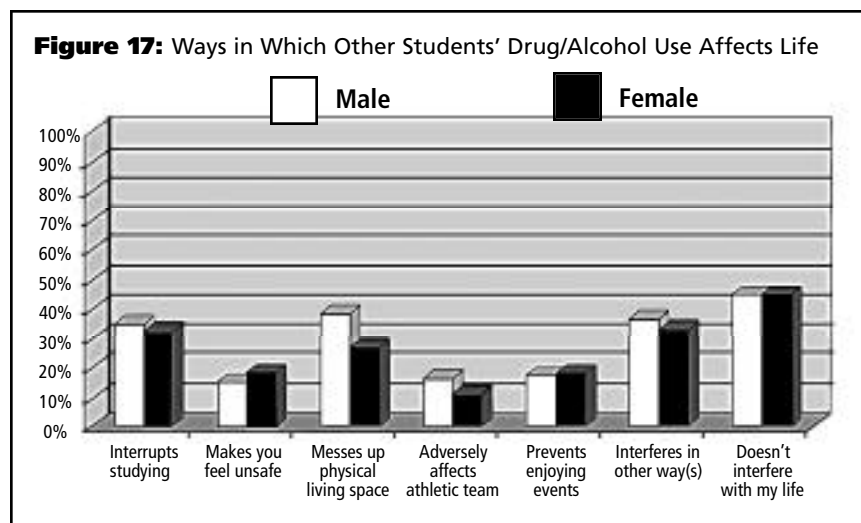
Figure 16: Drug- or Alcohol-Related Experiences During Previous Year



This data demonstrates the extent to which drugs or alcohol are reported to have negative consequences on the lives of students. It is important to distinguish the fact that this set of responses blends both drugs and alcohol, and does not distinguish different ways in which an individual's drug or alcohol use have separate effects. Further, students appear to be quite forthcoming with their assessment of how their use of drugs and alcohol may result in negative consequences. Overall, drugs and alcohol are involved at varying levels with academic issues, social interactions, driving, and other circumstances.

HOW OTHERS' DRINKING INTERFERES WITH LIFE ON CAMPUS

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions about ways in which other students' drinking interferes with their life on campus. While 45% of all respondents indicated no interference with their lives, 36% of males and 26% of females report that this negatively affects their physical living space. Academics are affected, with 33% of males and 31% of females reporting interruptions of their studying. Other interference is found, with prevention from enjoying events (17-18%), feeling unsafe (15-18%), affecting involvement in organized groups (10-14%), and other ways (32-35%).



This data suggests that students have identified a variety of ways in which other students' alcohol consumption negatively affects their academic, social, and other aspects associated with the quality of life on campus.

HOW CLOSE FRIENDS WOULD FEEL ABOUT SUBSTANCE USE

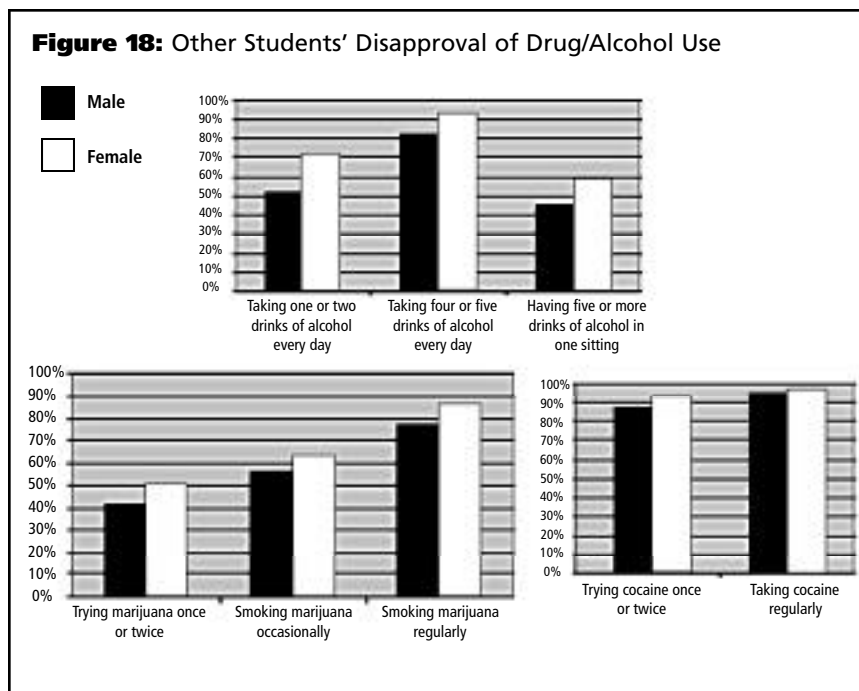
A series of questions were asked about how students think their close friends feel – or would feel – about their use of various drugs or alcohol. This summary, illustrated in figure 18 below, highlights these feelings about their use of alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine, with attention to their use over a range of consumption patterns (use of the substance once or twice, occasionally, and regularly).

Regarding alcohol use, widely divergent patterns existed between male and female students. Disapproval (reported as either strongly disapprove or disapprove) for taking one

or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day was reported for 52% of responding males and 71% of responding females; 82% of males and 93% of females reported that friends would disapprove of taking four or five drinks nearly every day. A total of 46% of males and 59% of females reported that friends would disapprove of them having five or more drinks in one sitting; with this, 28% of males and 38% of females indicated that their friends would strongly disapprove.

For marijuana use, disapproval was similar. Disapproval for trying marijuana once or twice was cited by 42% of males and 50% of females; disapproval for smoking marijuana occasionally was cited by 56% of males and 63% of females. However, disapproval for smoking marijuana regularly was cited by 77% of males and 86% of females, with 46% of males and 55% of females indicating strong disapproval.

Turning to cocaine use, disapproval for trying cocaine once or twice was cited by 88% of males and 93% of females, with the vast majority of these responses being strong disapproval. Disapproval for taking cocaine regularly was reported by 95% of males and 98% of females.



Clearly, with this response pattern, students cite the overall level of disapproval or non-disapproval of their use of a range of substances. Virginia students indicate a relatively high disapproval of cocaine use, a moderate disapproval of occasional marijuana use with much more disapproval for more regular marijuana use. Disapproval for alcohol use was reported for higher patterns of frequency or quantity.

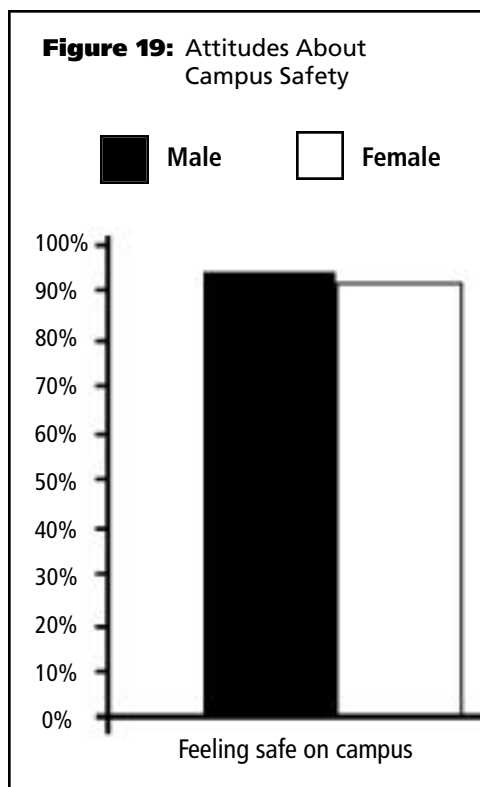
THE CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

A series of questions addressed students' assessment of the campus environment, focusing on the overall social life, involvement of drugs and alcohol on the campus, and safety considerations. Over one-half of students (63% of males and 55% of females) indicate that the social atmosphere promotes alcohol use; in contrast few students (26% of males and 18% of females) report that it promotes the use of other drugs.

Male students, more than female students, cited that drinking alcohol is a central part in the social life for each of a range of various campus groups; the range of responses for the groups examined are summarized below, with male "yes" ratings followed by female ratings. Drinking alcohol is cited as a central part of the social life of males by 82-84% of students; of fraternities by 71-79%; of female students by 69-73%; of sororities by 62-72%; of athletes by 67-70%, of alumni by 34-47%, and of faculty/staff by 13-24%. Comparing their campus with other campuses with which students are familiar, one-half of respondents (50-52%) report that their campus' use of alcohol is about the same as other campuses; males tended to report (16%, vs. 10% for females) that their campus' use of alcohol was greater than other campuses. Turning to safety considerations, the vast majority of students feel safe on the campus, with 93-94% reporting that they do feel safe.

Overall, students report that alcohol is very much a part of the social life of students, with males, members of Greek letter organizations, and athletes having the higher

emphasis than others. Further, it is noteworthy that the vast majority of students do feel safe on the campus.

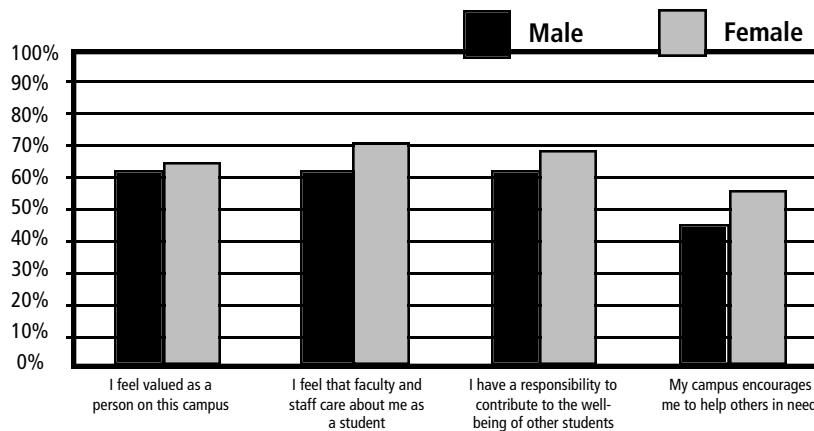


PERSONAL PERCEPTIONS

Students reported their reactions to a series of questions and issues related to their feelings of being respected and cared about by the campus personnel and its environment. Overall, nearly two-thirds of students (62% male and 64% female) feel valued as a person on the campus; 8-12% of respondents reported that they did not feel valued. Similarly, 63% of males and 71% of females report that the faculty and staff care about them as a student; 7-13% of students report that this is not the case.

Having a responsibility to contribute to the well-being of other students is indicated by 62% of males and 69% of females. Further 46% of males and 55% of females state that the campus encourages them to help others in need; this is disagreed to by 17% of males and 10% of females.

Figure 20: Attitudes About the Campus Environment



Overall, the perceptions held by students indicate that, overall, they feel valued and nurtured in a caring environment. The fact that approximately 25-35% of student respondents feel neutral about these issues of caring and responsibility provides an opportunity for campuses to more carefully examine their culture, climate, environment, and interactions available for students on the campus.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Students at Virginia colleges and universities have provided a wide array of information that is useful for individuals planning programs, services, policies and other initiatives. Policymakers and campus leaders in Virginia have demonstrated attention to drug and alcohol abuse issues at their institutions on a variety of occasions. Virginia ABC Education personnel have observed increased attention to and greater sophistication incorporated by colleges and universities as they address drug and alcohol issues and concerns. While this effort has been maintained on many campuses, many other campuses demonstrate limited levels of attention.

This **Report of Findings** identifies a range of specific issues for greater attention by leaders in Virginia's institutions of higher education. Specifically, this report summarizes the results which appear across the 20 campuses included in the data source. While some campuses are higher in some areas than others, and while other campuses did not gather data at this particular time, this compiled data provides helpful insights about the nature of Virginia's college students today. Each campus participating in the current data collection effort can review its own data for statewide comparisons on individual questions and can analyze a wide range of considerations at a more focused and detailed level.

Overall, the data shows clearly that Virginia's college students are involved with the use of drugs and alcohol. Alcohol is by far the most popular substance used by these students, followed by tobacco and marijuana. The use of designer drugs, opiates and cocaine are at a very low level. The quantity of alcohol consumption reported by males on a weekly basis was roughly double that reported by females. Further, the consumption

of five or more drinks at a time, at least once during the past two weeks, was reported by over half of men and over one-third of women. These heavier use patterns warrant close attention by campus and state leaders.

The misperceptions of others' use of substances is relatively high, particularly with respect to illicit drugs. Further, the range of negative consequences resulting from an individual's use of drugs or alcohol, including academic, social, driving and quality of campus life, demonstrate that these are issues that can be addressed. Related to this is the apparent relative tolerance held by students regarding negative behaviors.

On a positive note, most students report a high quality campus environment for their academic and social endeavors. They generally find the campus supportive of and caring for them. While improvement is warranted, the overall setting is a positive one.

Not unexpectedly, the patterns of use, their consequences, and associated factors with campus life have not changed significantly over a one year period of time. As with most social issues, change is typically incremental. However, notice of even small levels of change is necessary for maintaining vigilant focus so that progress can be encouraged, supported and maintained.

Overall, this **Report of Findings** helps clarify the current "state of affairs" among college students in Virginia vis a vis drug and alcohol issues. Many aspects of this report point to a need for greater attention. Other aspects of this report point to the need for sustaining the quality approaches and perspectives that are held. Campus leaders, state officials, parents, students and others concerned about drug and alcohol issues would be well served to review and discuss openly these findings, in an effort to identify more effective and more appropriate ways of furthering the positive approaches that have been undertaken. Collectively, and with deliberate and sustained action, continued progress toward a healthier, safer and more productive campus environment can be incorporated for Virginia's colleges and universities.



SPECIAL NOTE

The information contained within this report was analyzed using the SPSS statistical package. Numbers are rounded for purposes of clarity. Because of rounding, there are some instances when the reported percentages do not equal 100%. For a complete set of all responses for 1999-2000, please contact VA ABC Education Section at 804.213.4688.



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